



## ABSTRACT AND BIOGRAPHY

### **Risk Creep**

Risk Management is the cornerstone for the Agency's Project Management approach. Risk creep is the most difficult aspect of the risk management process to truly understand and manage. Risk change for each individual progressive step in the risk creep threat is virtually impossible to quantify because inherent in the risk creep problem are risk controls that seemingly prevent risk increase or at least minimize apparent risk increase to a point causing great difficulty for engineers and managers to object. This difficulty is further complicated because these same engineers and managers have typically bought in to risk controls at earlier steps of risk creep. The Challenger mishap serves as the basis for this assessment. Each decision or step in risk creep leading to the Challenger mishap is assessed against the constraints of the Agency risk matrix. The purpose of this presentation is simply to review the lessons of Challenger and bring risk creep to the attention of Project Managers.

**James Ronald (Ronnie) Goodin**  
***System Safety Engineer***  
**Risco Manus Company**

Mr. Goodin (retired NASA 2007) has 32 years of project management experience with both DOD and NASA. Worked ALS, NLS, X-33, X-34, X-38, Shuttle, ISS, MIR, Cassini, Magellan, Galileo, Ulysses and Hubble for ground processing.

BS Aerospace Engineering from Mississippi State University  
Graduate from the Army DARCOM Safety Intern Center

10 years in Department of the Army project management; time split between the Army Aviation Command and the Army Safety Center

22 years with NASA including one year at NASA HQ